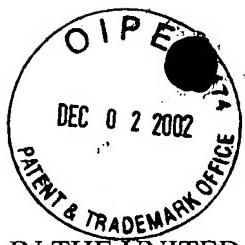


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant : K. SAMMT et al.

Group Art Unit : 1742

Appln No. : 10/073,233

Examiner : Not Known

Filed : February 13, 2002

For : STEEL FOR PLASTIC MOLDS AND PROCESS FOR THEIR HEAT TREATMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants submit herewith a copy of an European Search Report issued in connection with counterpart European Application No. 01 89 0327, mailed June 7, 2002. In particular, the following documents are cited:

U.S. Patent No. 3,401,035, as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention) with particular reference being made to column 1 line 45 through column 8, line 39 and column 18, line 22 through column 20, line 61 with respect to claims 1-13 of the European application.

EP 0 170 598 A1, as a "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with particular reference being made to page 8, lines 8-12 and claims 1 and 2 with respect to claims 1-6 of the European application. The European Search Report also lists this document as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category)

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with particular attention being directed to page 8, line 8-12 and claims 1 and 2 with respect to claims 7-12 of the European application.

EP 0 508 574 A1, as a "Y" category document with particular reference being made to page 4, line 29 through page 7, line 5 as relevant to claims 7-12 of the European application. The European Search Report also lists this document as an "A" category document with particular reference being made to page 4, line 29 through page 7, line 5 as relevant to claims 1-6 of the European application.

WO 99/36584, as an "A" category document with particular reference being made to that page 1 line 7 through page 3, line 28 and page 6, line 28 through page 7, line 16 with respect to claims 1-13 of the European application.

Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 2000, No. 09, October 13, 2000, which is listed as a family member of JP 2000-160297 A, and as an "A" category document with the abstract being referenced with respect to claims 1-13 of the European application.

Applicants note that the European Search Report lists U.S. Patent No. 4,594,115 as a family member of EP 0170598 and U.S. Patent No. 6,146,475 as a family member of WO 99/36584. Copies of these documents are also enclosed.

Copies of the above-noted documents are enclosed together with a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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Applicant notes that while this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received an action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if an action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize that any fees necessary to ensure consideration of this disclosure statement be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
K. SAMMT et al.

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December 2, 2002
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